Price of bread

*252. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Willl the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of bread has been raised recently;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the price of bread during the last one year till date stating the extent of rise each time; and

(c) what are the reasons for the constant rise in the prices of bread stating its likely impact on the common man and the steps contemplated by Government to stabilise its prices at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bread price in Delhi for 400 gms. loaf was raised from 1.45 to 1.55 and that of 800 gms. loaf from Rs. 2.80 to Rs. 3.00 with effect from 2-2-1987. There is no control on prices of bread any where else in the country. This was the first revision allowed after 7-2-1986. The present increase in prices of bread works out to about 7 per cent.

(c) Increase in the price of bread is on account of increase in the prices of inputs used in making bread. The increase is modest and takes into account all aspects including consumers' interest.

Modernisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

*253. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to modernise the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies; and

(b) whether Government propose to improve the credit facilities and to ensure their proper utilisation so as to relieve the marginal farmers from excessive debt burdens?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) In order to strengthen the existing Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSs) to enable them to cater to the needs of the farming community with special reference to credit, the Central Government had decided to implement a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for integrated co-operative development in 250 blocks in 50 districts in the country during the Seventh Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 150 crore. This Scheme is implemented through the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Scheme aims at increasing the volume and range of activities and services provided by the PACSs to the farming community by strengthening infrastructure facilities like office, godown, cash safe, counters and consumers shop. The Scheme also provides for working capital and training to the staff members of PACSs.

With a view to improving the quality of loans and supervision over utilisation of credit, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had launched in March 1984, pilot projects for strengthening the credit delivery system in three districts namely, Aurangabad (Maharashtra), Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) and Babarkantha (Gujarat). Keeping in view the encouraging results, the pilot project has now been extended to 17 more districts in the country. As a part of the pilot project, NABARD has launched a 15-point programme for development of selected PACSs. The measures to develop the societies include strengthening the operational efficiency of the institutions in terms of manpower, financial resources, procedural formali-

ties and intensive training of the concerned staff. Under this programme, NABARD will give financial assistance to each selected society for employment of an Aditional Secretary; impart training to the staff; provide counter and safe, etc. Also, in order to strengthen the capital base, NABARD will provide loans to the State Governments concerned to enable them to contribute to the share capital of the PACSs.

The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme introduced in the country with effect from Kharif, 1985, is also meant for providing relief to the farmers in the event of damage to their crops due to natural calamities. In the case of small and marginal farmers, 50 per cent of the insurance charges payable by them are subsidised jointly by the Central and State Government on a matching basis.

Conversion of VIP bungalows in Delhi into modern houses/flats

*254. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of conversion of bungalows in the capital's V.I.P. Zone into smaller and more compact modern houses/flats is under consideration of Government for quite a long time;

(b) whether a decision in the matter has since been taken;

(c) if so, what are the details in regard thereto; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) A Design Cell has been established in the Ministry of Urban Development under the overall guidance of a Working Group to study and recommend urban design framework for redensification of Government colonies in Zone D-11 and redevelopment of Bungalow area in Zone D-12 of New Delhi.

(c) and (d) The project is at a preliminary stage.

Loss to NAFED due to damage of food products

*255. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food products of NAFED were got damaged some time back and it incurred a loss of several lakhs of rupees in its Vellore, Cochin and other branches; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to recoup the losses in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G.S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) NAFED has incurred some losses on account of damaged products of its food processing units. The commercial losses of the type are met out of the profits earned by NAFED and not compensated by the Government.

Prices of garlic

*257. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of garlic has shot up from rupee 6/- to 60/- per Kg. partly due to exports and partly due to reduced production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no sufficient quantity of garlic seed for sowing;

(c) whether the import of unsuitable seeds might cause new diseases and also reduce the production of garlic; and